(d) Central Government has already taken action to minimise litigation over the disputes between the Public Sector Enterprises inter-se and between the Public Sector Enterprises and the Central Government Department requiring clearance of the matter by a Committee of Secretaries before resorting to or pursuing with a litigation in a Court of Law.

Supply of coal

479. SHRI GYAN RANJAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a proposal to supply coal from North Karampura Coalfield to the proposed thermal power station by the Bihar State Electricity Board in North Karampura area;

(b) if so, the present status of the same; and

(c) if BSEB has not succeeded in putting up the power plant, will Government consider putting up a captive power plant for Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) in North Karampura region on BOO basis by any private entcreprencurs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (c) Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB) had proposed to set up a thermal powe'r station near North Karampura area and the feasibility report for the power station of 2 x 500 MW submitted to Central Electricity Authority in 1988. In the meeting held in the Ministry of Coal on 30.5.1989, Ministry of Coal had agreed in principle to arrange coal for Stage-I of the project from North Karanpura coalfield. In November, 1992, BSEB informed that in view of the uncertainty of the North Karanpura State—I (2 x 500 MW) due to environmental issues, proposed Nabinagar thermal power station (2 x 500 MW) had been considered to be installed for the requirement of Bihar.

Power Grid Corporation is promoting 1000 MW Thermal Power Station at Nabinagar alongwith development of a captive block in North Karanpur coalfield through competitive bidding.

Persons killed in the Central Coal field in Bihar

480. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons killed in the Central Coal field, Bihar in October, 1997 and during the last five years;

(b) the action taken against those responsible for callousness towards human lives in the coal belt of Bihar; and

(c) the measures proposed to ensure adequate safety measures by miners as well as stoppage of illegal mining in the area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) As per information received from Coal India Limited (CIL) the number of persons killed in Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) in Bihar during the last five years and i*n* 1997 (upto October, 1997) are given below:

1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997 (upto Oct)	Total
24	14	23	22	19	20 (8 in Oct)	122

(b) Details of action taken in respect of punishment awarded in all fatal accidents in CCL during the last five years and in 1997 (upto October, 1997) are given in Statement.

(c) Preventive steps as laid down in the Coal Mines Safety, Expert Committee recommendations as also the recommendations of various Courts of Inquiry, Safety Conferences, etc. are adopted by the mine managements. For better observance of these steps. Government is promoting self-regulation by coal companies through internal safety